BBC Learning English Words in the News 29th June 2009 Honduras curfew



A nationwide curfew is in force in Honduras following the ousting by the military of President Manuel Zelaya. The speaker of Congress, Roberto Micheletti, who has been appointed acting president, said an election would take place in November as scheduled. Steven Gibbs reports:

A **curfew** has been **imposed** across the entire country. All roads are completely deserted of cars. In **driving rain** only **a handful of** protestors were left in the streets of the capital.

Many Hondurans say there's a **total lack** of information as to what exactly has happened to their country and their President. Officially Honduras has a new President - Roberto Micheletti is the speaker of the Honduran Congress and, according the constitution, he will remain in power until elections are held.

But speaking from exile in Costa Rica, the **ousted** President Zelaya has indicated he **will not be going quietly**. He says he was **ousted** by **an illegal coup**. His opponents say that his attempts **to extend his rule** meant that they **were legally obliged to** remove him from office.

Steven Gibbs, BBC News, Mexico City

Vocabulary and definitions

curfew	when people's movements are officially restricted; usually when there is a curfew, you are not allowed to stay outdoors after a specific time
imposed	officially declared and enforced
driving rain	forceful, violent rain that is made stronger by a very strong wind
a handful of	very few
total lack	complete absence
ousted	forced to leave his position of power
will not be going quietly	here, will fight back to return to his presidential position
an illegal coup	when a political or military organisation suddenly takes power from the government, acting in a way that is against the law
to extend his rule	to remain in power (even though he has been president long enough to be constitutionally banned from staying in office for another term)
were legally obliged to	by law, had no other choice but to

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